

The Gothic

AP Lit./McCord

The Gothic

- The Gothic begins with Horace Walpole who wrote *The Castle of Otranto* in 1764.
- This novel contain the quintessential elements of Gothic literature.

Elements of Gothic Lit.

- Setting in castle
- An atmosphere of mystery
- An ancient prophecy
- Omens, portents, visions
- Supernatural or otherwise inexplicable event.

Elements of Gothic Lit

- High, even overwrought emotion
- Women in distress
- Women threatened by a powerful, impulsive, tyrannical male
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Examples

- wind, especially howling
- rain, especially blowing
- doors grating on rusty hinges
- sighs, moans, howls, eerie sounds
- footsteps approaching
- clanking chains
- lights in abandoned rooms
- gusts of wind blowing out lights

Examples

- characters trapped in a room
- doors suddenly slamming shut
- ruins of buildings
- baying of distant dogs (or wolves?)
- thunder and lightning
- crazed laughter

Vocabulary of The Gothic

- Mystery
- diabolical, enchantment, ghost, goblins, haunted, infernal, magic, magician, miracle, necromancer, omens, ominous, portent, preternatural, prodigy, prophecy, secret, sorcerer, spectre, spirits, strangeness, talisman, vision

Vocabulary of The Gothic

- Fear, Terror, or Sorrow
- afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive, commiseration, concern, despair, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow, sympathy, tears, terrible, terrified, terror, unhappy, wretched

Vocabulary of The Gothic

- Surprise
- alarm, amazement, astonished, astonishment, shocking, staring, surprise, surprised, thunderstruck, wonder
- Haste
- anxious, breathless, flight, frantic, hastened, hastily, impatience, impatient, impatiently,

Vocabulary of The Gothic

- Anger
- anger, angrily, choler, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully
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